



# Kids Page



OF THE EPA TRIBAL WASTE JOURNAL

## Lulu the Landfill Lady

Meet Lulu the Landfill Lady. She calls the St. Paul Island landfill home. Lulu, also known as Aquilina Lestenkof, was created for the St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office's household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event. Ms. Lestenkof transformed into Lulu by pulling on orange and black-striped socks and pairing an old flannel shirt with a floral skirt. She also accessorized, draping a string of Christmas lights around her neck, adding a gaudy hat with pink flowers, and tying a mesh bag to a rope around her waste.

After residents dropped off drain cleaner, batteries, and other hazardous items at the collection event, Ms. Lestenkof offered to take them on a tour of the local landfill, leading interested children and adults onto a school bus destined for the dump. Young children eyed Lestenkof suspiciously, recognizing her face, but not her clothes. During the ride to the landfill, she talked fondly of her home among debris and many children began to believe that she was really Lulu.

At the landfill, Lestenkof described proper waste disposal practices and explained where waste goes on St. Paul Island. She spiced up the tour by referring to specific piles of debris as her "kitchen" or "bedroom." Back on the bus, she challenged children to think of waste reduction techniques, including reuse and recycling. As Lulu, she also bestowed buckets of "green" cleaning supplies to a few lucky passengers. The buckets contained vinegar, baking soda, and other alternatives to harsh cleaning products, which can contaminate local water supplies if disposed of improperly.



## ONE PERSON'S WASTE IS ANOTHER PERSON'S WARDROBE

During an Earth Day fair, students on Prince of Wales Island used recyclable materials to create clothing and accessories, modeling their designs during a "trash-ion" show. The fair also featured a trash art display as some of the children used recyclable materials in collages and sculptures.

After the trashion show, students admired Earth Day logos designed for the event and participated in a poetry contest. They also strolled to tables staffed by representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the Alaska Department of Conservation, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, where they received information about environmental issues and learned how to crochet backpacks, handbags, bath mats, baskets, and other items out of plastic bags. Students from the Organized Village of Kasaan talked about their red worm composting project. They feed food scraps to a bin full of red wigglers that process the organic material into nutrient-rich compost and sell small bags of the final product to community members.



## The Ultimate Can Crusher

Can crushing and a solid waste management lesson produce a smashing combination in the classroom. Students learn that it is important to reduce the volume of waste by designing their own can crushers. Many Alaska Native villages ship recyclable materials such as aluminum cans to Anchorage or Seattle on barges or airplanes, where space is limited. By compacting materials, villages can ship more recyclable items. For some villages, recycling is not logistically or economically feasible, but landfill space is at a premium. Compacting can reduce the volume of waste and provide an alternative to burning.

After introducing the concept of simple machines such as levers and pulleys, teachers can collect rope, wire, hinges, screws, nails, wood scraps, bricks, blocks, and other materials and ask students to design a can crusher with them. Before beginning the construction phase, students



should write instructions for building their machine. They should also be able to explain how the machine will work. Under adult supervision, the construction phase can proceed, and when the students are finished, a testing phase can stimulate a discussion of waste volume reduction options available to villages.

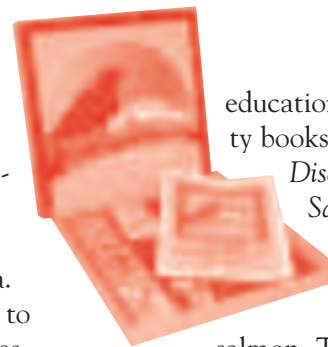
For additional information about this activity, visit [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/quest/pdf/31crush.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/quest/pdf/31crush.pdf), or order a free copy of *The Quest for Less: Activities and Resources for Teaching K-6* (EPA530-R-00-008) from EPA's RCRA Call Center at 800 424-9346 or 703 412-9810.

## Savin' Raven

Be the first to experience the excitement of RurAL CAP's Savin' Raven game. This colorful board game is popular in schools, community halls, and homes throughout rural Alaska. Savin' Raven inspires children to discuss waste management issues affecting their communities.

The board includes nine destination sites, ranging from a dump to a community recycling center, spread across a map of Alaska. Players race to dispose of items such as styrofoam packing peanuts and used oil at the proper site. Along the way, they learn about environmental hazards and answer questions about solid waste management.

Rural CAP also distributes an educational kit that includes videos,



educational posters, activity books and curriculum.

*Discovering Alaska's Salmon* focuses on the life-cycle and cultural significance of salmon. The teachers'

guides also contain information and activities tailored to children in rural Alaska. One exercise, for example, involves interviewing elders to obtain information on past waste management practices.

Rural CAP provides Savin' Raven and the educational kit to rural educators for free. To order a copy, contact Ellen Kazary, RurAL CAP Environmental Program Coordinator, at 907 279-2511 or [ekazary@ruralcap.com](mailto:ekazary@ruralcap.com).